(c) the number of rooms proposed to be constructed; and

(d) the action, if any taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) to (d) A proposal for Central financial assistance of Rs. 50.00 lakhs for Construction of Jungle Lodges Tourism Resort at Hampi was received from the Government of Karnataka during 1998-99. After obtaining necessary clarifications Central Financial assistance of Rs. 49.00 lakhs was sanctioned and Rs. 14.70 lakhs was released as first instalment during 1999-2000.

This project includes construction of 8 rooms, a restaurant and a conference hall.

Impact of promotion of hedonistic tourism

†*613. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to promotion of hedonistic tourism, the environment of various tourist spots in the country has been damaged and it has given rise to immoral misconduct; and

(b) if so, what steps are being taken to prevent this tendency?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) and (b) Ministry of Tourism in consultation with State/UT Administrations promotes tourism to ensure hassle-free stay of tourists in the country, with due regard to conservation of culture, heritage and environment. Hedonistic tourism does not figure in the list of facilities created for tourists, nor is it promoted.

Import duty on crude oil

*614. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the present rate of cess per tonne on crude oil produced in the country;

(b) the present import duty on imported crude oil;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) the cumulative amount collected through cess till March, 1999 and

(d) the amount collected in the year 1999-2000 through import duty on imported crude oil; and

(e) the amount disbursed so far to the Oil Industry Development Board after 1992-93?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) Cess is collected at the rate of Rs. 900 per metric tonne on indigenous crude oil, except for the crude oil produced in the exploration blocks offered under the New Exploration and Licensing Policy (NELP) through competitive international bidding.

(b) At present crude oil is charged a basic customs duty of 15% *advalorem*. There is no additional duty of customs on crude oil. It is exempted from surcharge and special additional duty of customs. It is also exempted from the cess of Rs. 900 per metric tonne.

(c) The net cumulative amount of cess collected from 1974-1975 to 1998-99 is Rs. 33439 crores.

(d) The revised estimate of customs revenue from petroleum oils & oils obtained from bituminous minerals crude, for 1999-2000 is Rs. 3646.81 crores.

(e) No amount has been disbursed to the Oil Industry Development Board after 1992-93.

Opening of PCO/STD/ISD Booths in Himachal Pradesh

*615. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Miniser of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of PCOs/STD/ISDs functioning in Himachal Pradesh, District-wise;

(b) the number of applications pending for grant of PCO/STD/ISD booths in Himachal Pradesh during the last two years, District-wise; and

(c) the reasons for not sanctioning such booths to the applicants?